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MOSCOW EMBASSY REPORTS RUMOR THAT BERIA DISCREDITED FOR EAST  
GERMAN OUTBREAKS

Ambassador Bohlen reports that a rumor has been circulating in Moscow to the effect that L. P. Beria is in difficulty if not in disgrace because of the recent security breakdowns in East Germany.

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Bohlen comments that the rumor may

have arisen solely from Beria's absence on 27 June when all other top Soviet officials attended the opera.

The absence of a top Soviet leader on even an occasion of state has not in the past been unusual.

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It is possible that Beria as chief of intelligence and security might be blamed for the riots in East Germany, but the pattern of MVD personnel shifts in the USSR in June suggested his continued power throughout that month.

There is also the possibility that Beria may be in some disfavor with his colleagues for arbitrary action in the recent Georgian purges which were generally credited to his influence. The Georgian Communist Party congress, originally scheduled for 25 May and presumably called to confirm the April shake-ups, has not yet been

announced. State Department review completed

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